

Series: 1999-2000
CIRCULAR LETTER C-16

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Principals of High Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 7, 2000

SUBJECT: Advanced Placement Courses: Connecticut Continues a Great Job!

Enclosed please find our latest report to the State Board of Education on Connecticut participation in the Advanced Placement (AP) programs.

As a state, we should take great pride in our overall growth in AP and the new opportunities for many more students. In addition, please note the following special commendations:

High participation rates: Farmington High, Fitch Senior High (Groton), Hamden High School, Conard High (West Hartford), Hall High (West Hartford), Staples High (Westport), Weston High and Joel Barlow High (Region 9);

AP program growth: Cheshire High, Farmington High, Glastonbury High, Fitch Senior High (Groton), Hamden High, Middletown High, Seymour High and Joel Barlow High (Region 9);

AP emerging program growth: Berlin High, Nathan Hale-Ray High (East Haddam), Weaver High (Hartford), Maloney High (Meriden), Montville High, Plainville High, Thomaston High, Windsor Locks High and Northwestern High (Region 7);

Starting new AP programs (in the past five years): Bolton High, Bassick High (Bridgeport), Harding High (Bridgeport), East Granby High, East Haven High, East Windsor High, Cooperative High (New Haven), High School in the Community (New Haven), Hyde Leadership School (New Haven), Wheeler High (North Stonington), Westbrook High, The Bridge Academy and The Gilbert School.

In its March 13, 2000, issue, *Newsweek* magazine listed Farmington High among the 100 best high schools. Their criterion was the number of AP and International Baccalaureate exams taken in May 1999 divided by the estimated number of June 1999 graduates. On their web-site, (www.newsweek.com), Hall High and Conard High (West Hartford), Staples High (Westport), Pomperaug High (Region 15) and Darien High were also listed among the top 500 high schools. Had *Newsweek* used actual graduates, then Fitch High (Groton), Weston High, Joel Barlow High (Region 9) and Lewis S. Mills High (Region 10) would have been listed.

Page 2-

Included in the Board report is our correspondence of 1997-98 to help answer the question, “Why not more?” The short answer is: there is no good reason not to do a lot more – everywhere.

Please remember that the state is again funding one-week summer courses, free of charge, at Central Southern, Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities, and that the Taft School in Watertown runs an extensive program for new and veteran AP teachers. For further information about these courses or AP courses in general, contact: Jeanne.Purcell@po.state.ct.us

Why not add one new course per year? – for the next five years! Set a goal that every student heading for college should take at least one AP or equivalent course.

Thank you.

TSS:ppa
Enclosure